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Guinea pigs, and they should arrive the 25th. Most of the cultures taken from the Regalado case have grown, and I have gotten a short non-motile bacillus, decolorizing by Gram, which gives a uniform clouding in bouillon, and only rarely shows any bipolar staining.

The health of the town is at present good, with the exception of a child of 6, now seven days ill with a fever of remittent type and symptoms of gastro-intestinal irritation. The brother of this boy died of the suspected illness some three weeks ago, consequently I am watching him closely, but as yet find nothing suspicious except the continuance of the fever and the increase of the prostration.

The regular steamer for San Diego leaves to-night, and I have arranged to inspect her and passengers before she sails. She carries little freight north bound.

Owing to the fact that the steamer lies at moorings here and the lighters are beached to load, practically the only danger, assuming there is plague here, would be from the passengers and their baggage. I shall, therefore, ascertain in so far as possible, the extent of exposure, if any, of each passenger, and inform Acting Assistant Surgeon McKay. The majority of the passengers are, especially now during the holidays, Americans or English, living either at the Hotel Iturbide—a high, healthful location—or out in the country.

The stage for Tiajuana (railroad terminal on border) leaves here 3 times a week. Two days are necessary for the journey, and I am informed rarely more than 1 passenger is carried through each trip.

Respectfully,

S. B. GRUBBS,

Passed Assistant Surgeon.

The SURGEON GENERAL.

Bacteriological examinations—Possible origin of the disease—Measures for protection of the United States.

ENSENADA, MEXICO, December 26, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I have this day telegraphed you the following, partly in code:

Provisional diagnosis plague. During past twenty-four hours there have been 2 deaths; very suspicious. These are cases reported at Mazatlan, Mexico. Local quarantine officer thinks it is plague. Port Pacific Mail Line for Chinese. Steamer once month to 'Frisco touches here and other Mexican ports.

Regarding the first part of this telegram, I would state that there were 2 deaths on yesterday, December 25. One Santiago Murcii, Italian, 65 years old, sick four days. All the axillary glands, left side, were enlarged and surrounding tissue cedematous. Swelling seemed to precede fever, for when first seen by Dr. Power on the 22d his temperature was 98°. However, that afternoon it went up to 106°, and remained high, with all the symptoms of a severe intoxication, until his death on the morning of the 25th.

The other case was that of Francisco Rubio, said to be 102 years old, but strong and active. He died without medical attendance, after a sickness of four days, during the last two of which he had a painful swelling under the right arm and a large ecchymosis on right shoulder.

No necropsy could be obtained in either case, and it was with difficulty that permission was obtained to puncture the enlarged glands to take cultures. Smears from both these cases show a certain number of bacilli giving the bipolar appearance with carbolic thionin and decolor-

izing by Gram. It was on account of these 2 cases occurring at the same time, within about 50 yards of each other, and following the other suspicious cases that I felt justified in making the diagnosis of plague, prefixing the word "provisional" to indicate that absolute bacteriological proof was as yet lacking. It is unfortunate that enough material could not have been obtained in these cases to inject directly into animals, as this would have been a much quicker and surer means of getting an absolute proof. However, I hope to get the organism from the cultures taken.

Regarding the second part of my telegram, the *Curaçao*, which arrived here from Mazatlan, Mexico, on the 24th, brought news of a serious epidemic now progressing there. Several persons spoke of it, and I have seen a letter from that place stating that the writer knew of 10 cases that had died in one day. The brother-in-law of Dr. José Davilla, quarantine officer of Mazatlan, told me his family here had a letter from him, in which he stated he personally believed the disease to be plague.

Mazatlan has about 30,000 inhabitants, and is, I understand, the point where most Chinamen, desiring to illegally enter the United States from south, land. They reship at San Francisco from the trans-Pacific steamer to the coastwise Pacific mail and land at Mazatlan, where they take the *Curaçao* to Ensenada, where they await their chance to get across the border.

The *Curaçao* makes a round trip a month between San Francisco and several Mexican ports.

The above facts would explain how the plague could have been brought to Mazatlan and Ensenada. I have tried to find out what sickness has been among Chinamen here during the past three months, having talked with the Chinese interpreter and several of the Chinese residents who look after the new comers. Several have been sick and at least 2 have died during that time, but I could locate nothing suspicious unless it be one who, on his arrival, was sick with a swelling on his side, which finally burst, after which he went to the United States.

I believe there are no suspicious cases here at present unless it be the Goldbaum boy, whose brother died about a month ago of the disease. I have seen this boy regularly now for a week, and clinically the case seems to me to be an irregular case of typhoid fever.

As to your instructions to take measures to prevent the spread of this disease to the United States, I have, both times that the steamer sailed for San Diego since my arrival here, gone aboard with Dr. Peterson, the local health officer, inspected all passengers and inquired minutely into their whereabouts for the week preceding. This has been possible by the kindness of Dr. Peterson and his knowledge of the inhabitants of Ensenada. It has been my intention to advise the rejection of any passenger that had lived near a case or who had otherwise been especially exposed, and in case they were taken, to notify Acting Assistant Surgeon McKay at San Diego quarantine. I have been satisfied in all cases, however, as the passengers have aggregated but 40 for the two trips and they have been for the most part Americans and English. I have notified Acting Assistant Surgeon McKay each time what had been done. I would be glad to have instructions on this subject if other measures are deemed advisable.

Respectfully,

S. B. GRUBBS,
Passed Assistant Surgeon.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

ENSENADA, MEXICO, *January 1, 1903.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following summary concerning the epidemic that has existed in Ensenada, Mexico, during the past ten weeks:

Ensenada is a town claiming 1,400 inhabitants, situated on the north-ern slope and plain at the extremity of the Bayo de Todos Santos, which is about 70 miles south of San Diego, Cal.

The town has no sewers or waterworks, but is kept fairly clean. Most of the houses are separated one from another, and are built well up off the ground.

The first case of the suspicious malady occurred on October 20, 1902, and was treated together with 6 other cases by Dr. L. Goldschmeidt. He has written some excellent notes on these cases, from which I quote the following:

"Number of cases under treatment, 7; number of deaths, 7. [Besides these, 8 other cases with 6 deaths are reported.]"

* * * * * *

In conclusion, I would state that I believe some, if not a majority, of the above cases were due to plague. However, I believe the conditions here are favorable to the extinction of the disease, built as Ensenada is, of small houses, well separated and flooded with sunlight. Considering the proximity, the danger of spread to the United States is also not very great, in my opinion, especially under mild precautions.

The stage line, running 3 times a week, carries few passengers and no freight on its two days' trip to Tiajuana on the boundary line. The *St. Dennis*, making 6 trips a month to San Diego, stops but twelve hours, lies at anchor, lighters from the beach, and carries very little freight north.

I have to acknowledge the courtesy of all Mexican officials I have met while in Ensenada, especially Dr. Peterson, the local representative of the Consejo de Salubridad. My thanks are also due to Dr. E. B. Alexander, Dr. C. H. Power, and Dr. L. Goldschmeidt for very valuable assistance rendered.

Respectfully,

S. B. GRUBBS,
Passed Assistant Surgeon.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

SAN DIEGO, CAL., *January 5, 1903.*

Grubbs went yesterday noon to Los Angeles. Have forwarded your telegram. Grubbs found plague in Ensenada. Principal danger to this section is from overland travel. Immigrant Inspector A. J. You, stationed at San Diego, says many people likely to cross border from Mazatlan and Ensenada by train or road in vicinity of Tiajuana. The border line is place to be guarded.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

DECKER.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., *January 6, 1903.*

Arrived Los Angeles yesterday en route Guaymas for boat to Altata; shall wait orders here, hotel Angelus; situation, Ensenada good; authorities promise to enforce isolation and better disinfection; know of no cases since 25th; advise the employment of E. B. Alexander, inspector, an excellent physician, at \$100 per month; has been instructed; the authorities at San Diego fear overland travel; this small and difficult to inspect; could have inspector Tiajuana or customs-house inspector there; could make every one from Ensenada report to Decker and keep

him advised ; think disease has been in Ensenada three months, probably from Mazatlan, but could not trace it ; mail report tomorrow.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

GRUBBS.

JANUARY 6, 1903.

Remain there until further orders. Wire Bureau where you advise Dr. Alexander to be placed, and definitely, if you consider custom-house inspection with notification to Decker sufficient, at Tiajuana.

PURVIANCE,

Acting Surgeon-General.

Dr. GRUBBS, *Hotel Angelus, Los Angeles, Cal.*

LOS ANGELES, CAL., *January 6, 1903.*

WYMAN: Advise Alexander stay Ensenada. Did not investigate overland travel thoroughly, but think custom-house inspection watched by Alexander and Decker sufficient unless situation becomes worse.—GRUBBS.

JANUARY 7, 1903.

Nominate Alexander and place him on duty. Direct him to report frequently to Decker. Inform Decker names of cases enabling him to determine if 2 recent deaths were in the same family.

PURVIANCE,

Acting Surgeon-General.

GRUBBS, *Hotel Angelus, Los Angeles, Cal.*

SAN DIEGO, CAL., *January 6, 1903.*

Unofficially but reliably informed, 2 more deaths from plague at Ensenada within last few days in family of former case. Recommend that inspection of all persons coming into country from Ensenada be immediately established and detention camp provided. People in Ensenada likely to become panic stricken, and to flock this way.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

DECKER.

SAN DIEGO, CAL., *January 7, 1903.*

My positive information yesterday from member of the State board of health of 2 recent deaths from plague at Ensenada unfounded. Alexander telegraphs no cases since Christmas. Unless further cases inspection by customs officers probably sufficient, though only 2 officers to watch 12 roads crossing border. Letter.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

DECKER.

The plague in Mazatlan and reported in Guaymas.

The following correspondence embraces the facts as they have been reported to the Bureau concerning the plague in Mazatlan and its reported presence in Guaymas :

Mazatlan is on the Pacific Coast of Mexico, about 884 miles from the lower border of California. It is in the province of Sinaloa, which province is surrounded by high mountains, with communication with the interior of Mexico through a few passes in the mountains. The nearest railroad point to Mazatlan is Altata, about 140 miles distant.

Immediately on learning of the presence of plague in Mazatlan inquiry was made of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, and official inform-